THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region is negotiating with the World Bank for study on "Water, Natural Resources and the Environment for Development and Growth in North East". The study is an integrated project combining all natural resources for their efficient utilization for developmental purposes keeping the environmental issues in mind. The World Bank had mounted a mission to the North East for basic fact-findings in the month of January, 2005 and also organized a workshop on January 20-21, 2005. The proposed study with the help of the World Bank is at the initial stage of formulation.

Appearance of water in dried-up wells

2928. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water has recently appeared in long dried-up wells and areas of wasteland in far-flung pockets of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including the names of areas where this miracle has happened; and

(c) whether this water is potable and fit for irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, has reported sudden appearance of water in some wells in localized area of Ranga Reddy district in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Investigations carried out by the CGWB on the reported sudden appearance and rise of water level in some parts of Ranga Reddy district, revealed the following:—

* Sudden appearance of water in a dry domestic dug well in Dharur village, Dharur Mandal.

* Appearance of water in a well near Chandra theatre, Tandur town, Tandur Mandal.

* Rise in water level in a dug well in old town, Tandur, Tandur Mandal.

* Surface discharges in Mukundapur and Devanur villages, Yalal mandal.

Sudden oozing of water has been a localized phenomenon possibly caused by improved connectivity of fractures/fissures/weathered zone in hard rock terrain leading to enhanced recharge from nearby sources.

(c) The quality of water in the surface oozing at Mukundapur and Devanur and ground water quality at Tandur/Dharur villages is potable and fit for irrigation.

Management of irrigation and drinking water

2929. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on a better management of irrigation and drinking water; and

(b) if so, the modalities worked out in this regard and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Water being a State subject, water resources projects including schemes on irrigation and drinking water are planned, implemented, funded and managed by the respective State Governments as per their priorities. However, the issue related to management are duly addressed in the National Water Policy. Relevant paras are as under:—

9.1 Irrigation planning either in an individual project or in a basin as a whole should take into account the irrigability of land, cost-effective irrigation options possible from all available sources of water and appropriate irrigation techniques for optimizing water use efficiency. Irrigation intensity should be such as to extend the benefits of irrigation to as large a number of farm families as possible, keeping in view the need